

5 March 1969

Jack Coffey
Acting Deputy Director for Support

If the attached is not self explanatory,
it was poorly drafted. I have gone over
this matter carefully with [REDACTED]
who had a crack at the draft before final
typing and whose suggestions are all
reflected herein.

STAT

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

P.S. Colonel White has approved this request
(on 5 March).

GAC:taw

Orig. - Addressee w/att

- 1 - VAS/RAC Chrono.
- 1 - VAS Chrono
- 1 - GAC Chrono ✓
- 1 - Communications file

5 March 1969

STAT

[redacted]
Director/Communications

If the attached is not self explanatory,
it was poorly drafted. We developed this
idea in close consultation with [redacted]
who went over my draft before final typing
and whose suggestions were all incorporated
in the final version. I am sending you two
copies. One is for your personal use and
attention. I would appreciate your forwarding
the other to Larry so he will have a record
copy of what went forward to Colonel White.

25X1

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

P.S. Colonel White has approved this request (on 5 March).


GAC:taw

Orig. - Addressee w/att

- 1 - VAS/RAC Chrono
- 1 - VAS Chrono
- 1 - GAC Chrono ✓
- 1 - Communications file

5 March 1969

STAT


AO/DCI

The attached should be self explanatory.
As you know, we worked very closely with
Commo in developing this proposal. I
thought you might like to have this copy
of our memorandum for your records.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

P. S. As you know, Colonel White has approved.

GAC:taw

Orig. - Addressee w/att

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5 MAR 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Executive Director/Comptroller

SUBJECT : Request for Communications Equipment for Related Activities Center

1. For the past several months it has become increasingly apparent that the Vietnamese Affairs Staff's Related Activities Center (VAS/RAC) is lacking one piece of equipment needed to make the center a fully operational facility in times of crisis or emergency: secure, on-line communications equipment that would enable us to establish real-time contact with Saigon directly from VAS/RAC in a crisis period. This need was flagged during the 18 August 1967 attacks and, in light of current developments in Vietnam, it is once again very much on my mind.
2. Another factor (not present in August) is the recent elevation of the hitherto informal "Bundy Group" into a formally constituted ad hoc working group under the National Security Council, coupled with the decision taken by the Bundy Group in early February that whenever Vietnam circumstances require the Bundy Group to assume the function of a high level watch committee in continuous session (to advise the President on a continuing basis and make on the spot all Washington decisions not requiring cabinet level or Presidential approval), the Group will convene in my office and work out of VAS/RAC. Since during such times the Chief of Station (with communications support) will be co-located with the Ambassador, a facility such as that herein requested will do much to support the total U.S. Government effort.
3. We have held productive informal discussions with representatives of the Office of Communications who estimate that with relative ease they can install teletype machines (two ASR units) in a secure area in VAS/RAC for a total cost not to exceed \$10,000. This high-side estimate includes all necessary wiring, conduits, etc. to connect our units with the main Headquarters Signal Center and, through the Signal Center, to Saigon (or anywhere else). The Signal Center would provide us with an operator during the emergency periods when the VAS/RAC ASRs were in use.

4. There are several points I want to flag in connection with this request.

a. Our ASRs would be used to establish a Saigon-VAS/RAC link only in emergencies or crises where direct cross-conversations with Saigon were needed or desirable in the Agency's or the National interest. Scrupulous care would be exercised to ensure no erosion of the integrity of Command Communications channels and to ensure that this link is never allowed to by-pass or encroach on these command channels.

b. The VAS/RAC ASRs would keep the similar gear in the Watch Office which is intended for world wide use, from being blackedout during Vietnam crises. Furthermore, the security and administrative problems engendered by the fact that most of the Bundy Committee members working in VAS/RAC would not be Agency Officers will be diminished if there is no need for any of the non-Agency members to go behind our seventh floor barrier.

c. Though the acquisition of the ASRs will reflect a one-time charge against our budget, these are not expendable items, thus the two ASRs we acquire will become part of the Agency inventory and will be available for use by other components when this staff eventually phases out of existence.

5. In light of the above, I am persuaded that the installation of the ASRs in VAS/RAC and resultant establishment of a potential direct link from this office to COS, Saigon will be in both the Agency's and the National interest. I therefore request your permission to expend a sum not to exceed \$10,000 to establish this link.

George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

cc: The Deputy Director for Support
The Director of Communications

DCI/SAVA/GACarver: cab: 5Mar69

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee

- 1 - Jack Coffey, Acting DDS
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STAT